More than 300 participants attended the 1st International Conference on Sport for Peace and Development in Magglingen, from both the UN Agencies and the world of Sport.

The Magglingen Declaration, reaffirming the importance of sport as a useful instrument for the education of young generations, also represents the international community’s commitment to sport for development. The thematic workshop on Local Development and Social Dialogue (jointly chaired by Mr. di Cola (ILO/Universitas Coordinator) and Mr. Dossal (Executive Director UNFIP) was well-attended.

1st Training module in Cuba
The module was carried out on February 24-28 and animated by Prof. Vasquez Barquero (Madrid University), in collaboration with Prof. Pichis, Marqueti, Gonzales and Davalos (La Havana University) 30 people from 7 different provinces participated, attending 8 training sessions: 1) the origin of local development; 2) Local development and territory; 3) local development in Cuba; 4) towards a model for local development in Cuba; 5) Globalization and territory; 6) local response to global challenge; 7) local development policy; 8) local development management. The module was introduced by two lectures « the cuban economy in the global context » and « the PDHL initiative ».

The Universitas/APPI workshop in Honduras
During last mission to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, synergies between Universitas and the APPI Programme led to the organization of a National Workshop at the National University of Honduras. More than 130 people participated to the workshop, including the Major of Tegucigalpa, several officials from the Municipality and National Ministries. Also students and academics of the Faculty participated actively, contributing to its success. The National University of Honduras and the International University Network of Universitas will contribute to support this project addressed to fight poverty in Tegucigalpa. Particularly, the project consists in action research in the historical centre and in the systematization of the results. The project will also help develop curriculum related to urban poverty for the international Master.

Events scheduled in March and April.
15-24 M Mission to Thailand and Malaysia under request of the UN Special Advisor on Sport for Peace and Development; 17 M: III Module in Guatemala; 24 M: Mission to South Africa to develop a plan of action;

Bilateral donors, sport federations, national and international Olympic committees, sport associations and clubs expressed their support for a “common institutional framework” with a twofold approach: policy dialogue/networking; partnerships and programmes to respond to practical local and national needs. In this respect, the involvement of tripartite constituents is seen as key to facilitating development of the activities. FIFA contributed in supporting the idea of a common framework for action at the field level. The Panel also recommended the use of a network of Universities to promote a culture of sport for development through educational and training programmes.

Theory and practice: territorial competitiveness and social inclusion.
Competitiveness is a complex result of the combination of meta, meso, and micro components. There is a common theoretical and practical understanding that the “territory”, conceived as the place where the interaction of multiple resources adds value to each one of them separately taken, is “the” competitive factor, because the common socio-cultural values, development interests, proximity, hidden or implicit relationships that facilitate and make feasible the transactions, the innovation and its transfer, and mainly collective effective learning. The ILO experience on the LEDA show that poor people may take part and also contribute to a competitive system. The learned lesson is the need for an integrated system of services, going from the information about opportunities to training, from technical assistance pre-business to credit and tutorship after-credit. The Universitas Programme is working on this problem through 2 actions: 1) the systematization of a training methodology for valorising the endogenous chains of value and prioritising those richer of business opportunities for people with scant resources. 2) the experimentation of models which allow a LEDA to intervene in the social protection field.